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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 112 (c)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND
REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Situation of human rights in Iraq

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and the International Covenants on Human Rights, 2/

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the duty to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Mindful that Iraq is a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and to other international human rights instruments,

Recalling its resolution 49/203 of 23 December 1993, in which it expressed its strong condemnation of the massive violations of human rights of the gravest nature in Iraq,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI).

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/74 of 6 March 1991, by which the Commission requested its Chairman to appoint a Special Rapporteur to make a thorough study of the violations of human rights by the Government of Iraq, based on all information the Special Rapporteur might deem relevant, including information provided by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and any comments and material provided by the Government of Iraq,

Recalling further the pertinent resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights condemning the flagrant violations of human rights by the Government of Iraq, including its most recent resolution 1995/76 of 8 March 1995, by which the Commission extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further year and requested him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session and a final report to the Commission at its fifty-second session,

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 668 (1991) of 5 April 1991, in which the Council demanded an end to the repression of the Iraqi civilian population and insisted that Iraq cooperate with humanitarian organizations and ensure that the human and political rights of all Iraqi citizens were respected,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) of 15 August 1991, 712 (1991) of 19 September 1991 and 778 (1992) of 2 October 1992,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 986 (1995) of 14 April 1995, which authorized States to permit imports of Iraqi oil up to the amount of 1 billion United States dollars every ninety days, on a renewable basis, in order to purchase essential food and medical supplies for humanitarian purposes,

Deeply concerned by the persisting massive and grave violations of human rights by the Government of Iraq, of which there are no signs of improvement, such as summary and arbitrary executions, the enactment and implementation of decrees prescribing cruel and inhuman punishments, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, arbitrary arrests and detentions, lack of due process, non-respect for the rule of law and the suppression of freedom of thought, of expression and of association, as well as the persistence of specific discrimination within the country as regards access to food and health care, which amounts to a violation of the economic and social rights of Iraqis,

Deeply disturbed by the observation by the Special Rapporteur that Iraqi armed forces have continued their attacks on the farming communities throughout the region adjoining northern Iraq and in the south of the country, resulting in the destruction of their crops and livestock,

Deeply disturbed also by reports about the climate of oppression and the dire economic and social situation in the south of Iraq,

Noting the responsibility of the Iraqi authorities with regard to persons missing as a result of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and also that Iraq has recently renewed its participation in the Tripartite Commission established pursuant to the cease-fire agreement of 1991,

Deploring the refusal of the Government of Iraq to cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular by receiving a return visit of the Special Rapporteur to Iraq and allowing the stationing of human rights monitors throughout Iraq pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the interim report on the situation of human rights in Iraq 3/ submitted by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights and the observations, conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. Expresses its strong condemnation of the massive and extremely grave violations of human rights for which the Government of Iraq is responsible, resulting in an all-pervasive order of repression and oppression which is sustained by broad-based discrimination and widespread terror;

3. Expresses its condemnation with regard to the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular of:

(a) Summary and arbitrary executions, including political killings;

(b) The widespread routine practice of systematic torture in its most cruel forms;

(c) The enactment and implementation of decrees prescribing cruel and unusual punishment, namely mutilation, as a penalty for certain offences and the abuse and diversion of medical-care services for the purpose of such mutilations;

(d) Enforced or involuntary disappearances, routinely practised arbitrary arrests and detention and consistent and routine failure to respect due process and the rule of law;

(e) Suppression of freedom of thought, information, expression, association and assembly, through fear of arrest, imprisonment and other sanctions, including the death penalty, as well as harsh limitations to freedom of movement;

4. Urges the Government of Iraq to cooperate with the United Nations with a view to arranging for the export of oil in order to purchase essential food and medical supplies for humanitarian purposes, as authorized by Security Council resolution 986 (1995);

5. Strongly condemns the continued refusal of the Government of Iraq to take advantage of resources available to alleviate the suffering of the people, which includes long-term disabilities, of millions of people and the death of many thousands more;

3/ A/50/734.

6. Again expresses its special alarm at the policies of the Government of Iraq, which discriminate between regions and prevent the equitable enjoyment of basic foodstuffs and medical supplies, and calls upon Iraq, which has sole responsibility in this regard, to take steps to cooperate with international humanitarian agencies in the provision of relief to those in need throughout Iraq;

7. Calls once again upon Iraq, as a State party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to abide by its freely undertaken obligations under the Covenants and under other international instruments on human rights, and particularly to respect and ensure the rights of all individuals, irrespective of their origin, within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction;

8. Demands that the Government of Iraq restore the independence of the judiciary and abrogate all laws granting impunity to specified forces or persons killing or injuring individuals for any purpose beyond the administration of justice under the rule of law as prescribed by international standards;

9. Demands that the Government of Iraq abrogate any and all decrees that prescribe cruel and inhuman punishment or treatment and take every step necessary to ensure that the practices of torture and cruel and unusual punishments and treatment no longer occur;

10. Urges the Government of Iraq to abrogate all laws and procedures, including Revolution Command Council Decree No. 840, of 4 November 1986, that penalize the free expression of competing views and ideas and to ensure that the genuine will of the people shall be the basis of authority in the State;

11. Also urges the Government of Iraq to improve its cooperation with the Tripartite Commission with a view to establishing the whereabouts or resolve the fates of the remaining several hundred Kuwaitis and third-country nationals who disappeared under the illegal Iraqi occupation of Kuwait;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance in carrying out his mandate and to approve the allocation of sufficient human and material resources for the se..ding of human rights monitors to such locations as would facilitate improved information flow and assessment and help in the independent verification of reports on the situation of human rights in Iraq;

13. Decides to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Iraq during its fifty-first session under the item entitled "Human rights questions" in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.

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Fiftieth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 112 (c)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Uruguay: draft resolution

Rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenants on Human Rights, 2/ the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 3/ the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 4/ the Convention on the

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ Resolution 260 A (III).

4/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 5/ the Convention on the Rights of the Child 6/ and instruments of human rights and international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 7/ and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, 8/

Recalling its resolution 3074 (XXVIII) of 3 December 1973, entitled "Principles of international cooperation in the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity", as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/77 of 9 March 1993 entitled "Rape and abuse of women and children in the territory of the former Yugoslavia", General Assembly resolutions 48/143 of 20 December 1993 and 49/205 of 23 December 1994, both entitled "Rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia", and relevant resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 798 (1992) of 18 December 1992, in which, inter alia, the Council strongly condemned those acts of unspeakable brutality,

Welcoming the initialling of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto 9/ by the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and other parties thereto on 21 November 1995, in Dayton, Ohio,

Noting with deep concern all reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, regarding rape and abuse of women in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, particularly in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Convinced that this heinous practice constitutes a deliberate weapon of war in fulfilling the policy of ethnic cleansing carried out by Serbian forces in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and noting General Assembly resolution 47/121 of 18 December 1992, in which the Assembly stated, inter alia, that the abhorrent policy of ethnic cleansing was a form of genocide,

Desirous of ensuring that persons accused of authorizing, aiding and perpetrating rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia will be brought to justice without further delay by the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons responsible

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5/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

6/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

7/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

8/ Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

9/ A/50/770-S/1995/999, attachment.

for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, where appropriate,

Underlining, in this context, the need for the protection of the rape victims and the provision of effective guarantees of privacy and confidentiality of the rape victims, desirous of facilitating their participation in the proceedings of the Tribunal, and ensuring that further traumatization will be prevented,

Deeply alarmed at the situation facing victims of rape in armed conflicts in different parts of the world and any use of rape as a weapon of war, in particular in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Governments and the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, humanitarian organizations, and non-governmental organizations aimed at supporting the victims of rape and abuse and alleviating their suffering,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's report of 29 August 1995 10/ pursuant to resolution 49/205,

1. Strongly condemns the abhorrent practice of rape and abuse of women and children in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia, which constitutes a war crime;

2. Expresses its outrage that the systematic practice of rape has been used as a weapon of war and an instrument of ethnic cleansing against the women and children in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

3. Reaffirms that rape in the conduct of armed conflict constitutes a war crime and under certain circumstances it constitutes a crime against humanity and an act of genocide as defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and calls upon States to take all measures required for the protection of women and children from such acts and to strengthen mechanisms to investigate and punish all those responsible and bring the perpetrators to justice;

4. Reaffirms that all persons who perpetrate or authorize crimes against humanity or other violations of international humanitarian law are individually responsible for those violations and that those in positions of authority who have failed to ensure that persons under their control comply with the relevant international instruments are accountable, together with the perpetrators;

5. Reminds all States of their obligation to cooperate with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the Office of the Prosecutor also in the

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10/ A/50/329.

investigation and prosecution of persons accused of using rape as a weapon of war;

6. Calls upon States to put experts, including experts in the prosecution of crimes of sexual violence, as well as adequate resources and services, at the disposal of the Chief Prosecutor and the Tribunal;

7. Urges all States and relevant organizations to continue to give serious consideration to the recommendations in the reports of the Special Rapporteur, in particular the recommendation for the provision for the continuation of necessary medical and psychological care to victims of rape within the framework of programmes to rehabilitate women and children traumatized by war, as well as to the provision of protection, counselling and support to victims and witnesses;

8. Recognizes the extraordinary suffering of the victims of rape and sexual violence and the necessity for an appropriate response to provide assistance to those victims, and expresses its concern in particular, for the welfare of those victims who are currently among the internally displaced or otherwise affected by the war and who have experienced severe trauma and require psychosocial and other assistance;

9. Urges all States and all relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, to continue to provide to the victims of such rape and abuse appropriate assistance for their physical and mental rehabilitation, and to extend their support to the community-based assistance programmes;

10. Demands that the parties cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur and her staff, as well as other mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the monitoring and other missions of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including by providing full access;

11. Encourages the new Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia to continue to pay particular attention to the use of rape as a weapon of war, particularly in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

13. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-first session.

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the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 6/ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 7/ and instruments of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of victims of war 8/ and the Additional Protocols thereto, 9/ of 1977, as well as the principles and commitments undertaken by States members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have under the human rights instruments to which they are a party, and reaffirming also the obligation of all to respect international humanitarian law,

Welcoming the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina 10/ initialled by the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), representing also the Bosnian Serb party, on 21 November 1995 in Dayton, Ohio, which commits the parties to the conflict to ending the war and starting to build peace with justice; enables Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue its legal existence as a single State within its internationally recognized borders with full respect for its sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence by its neighbours; and commits the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to respect fully human rights,

Welcoming also the basic agreement on the region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium, 11/ signed on 12 November 1995 between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the local Serb Representatives,

None the less gravely concerned at the human tragedy that has occurred in the territories of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and at the massive and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law,

Recalling its resolution 49/196 of 23 December 1994, Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/89 of 8 March 1995, and all relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

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6/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

7/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

8/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

9/ Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

10/ A/50/790-S/1995/999.

11/ S/1995/951, annex.

Recalling specifically the relevant Security Council resolutions in which the Council demanded, inter alia, that all parties and others concerned in the former Yugoslavia immediately cease and desist from all breaches of international humanitarian law, requested the Secretary-General to establish a commission of experts to examine and analyse information relating to serious violations of such law being committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, established an international tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for such violations and condemned in particular the unacceptable practice of "ethnic cleansing" perpetrated in areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of Bosnian Serb forces,

Recalling additional relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993), in which the Council declared that Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zepa, Gorazde, Bihac, Srebrenica and their surroundings should be treated as safe areas; that international humanitarian agencies should be given free and unimpeded access to those areas and that there should be freedom of movement for the civilian population and humanitarian goods to, from and within the areas,

Recalling further Security Council resolution 1019 (1995), in which the Council demanded that the Bosnian Serb party give immediate and unimpeded access to representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international agencies to persons displaced and to persons detained or reported missing from Srebrenica, Zepa and the regions of Banja Luka and Sanski Most,

Gravely concerned at attacks and capture by the Bosnian Serbs and Croatian Serb forces of safe areas, in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1009 (1995), in which the Council demanded that the Government of the Republic of Croatia respect fully the rights of the local Serb population, including their rights to remain, leave or return in safety, allow access to this population by international humanitarian organizations and create conditions conducive to the return of those persons who have left their homes,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Peace Forces to help to create the conditions for the peaceful settlement of the conflicts in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia and to provide protection for the delivery of humanitarian aid and the protection of human rights, and also noting the obstacles faced by those forces in the performance of their mandates,

Acknowledging the progress made by the Bosnian Federation as a model for ethnic reconciliation in the region,

Encouraging the international community, acting through the United Nations and other international organizations as well as bilaterally, to enhance significantly humanitarian support for the people of the region and promote human rights, economic reconstruction, the repatriation of refugees and the holding of free elections in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Welcoming all reconstruction efforts, in particular those of the European Union, inter alia, promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and endorsing the Special Rapporteur's recommendation that economic and other aid must be made conditional on meaningful progress on human rights,

Gravely concerned at the human rights violations in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), and in particular at those committed in the context of the odious practice of ethnic cleansing, which has been the direct cause of the vast majority of human rights violations there and whose principal victims have been the Muslim population, as well as the Croats and others,

Also gravely concerned at reports, including by the Representative of the Secretary-General, of grave violations of international humanitarian law and of human rights in and around Srebrenica, and in the areas of Banja Luka and Sanski Most, including reports of mass murder, unlawful detention and forced labour, rape and deportation of civilians,

Dismayed by the huge number of missing persons still unaccounted for, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Croatia,

Deeply concerned by the situations reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia, 12/ and stressing the need for detailed reporting on this subject,

Alarmed that the conflict in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Republic of Croatia has also been characterized by the systematic destruction and profanation of mosques, churches and other places of worship, religious buildings as well as sites of cultural heritage,

Expressing its particular concern for the situation of the children and the elderly as well as other vulnerable groups in the area,

Calling attention to the reports and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territories of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), including the most recent report 13/ by the newly appointed Special Rapporteur Mrs. Elisabeth Rehn,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the activity and efforts of the previous Special Rapporteur, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, in the discharge of his mandate,

Noting the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur that respect for human rights should be given priority during and after the peace negotiations and

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12/ A/50/205.

13/ A/50/727-S/1995/933.

that, without genuine improvements in the human rights situation in the area, any peace agreement will not have a solid foundation,

1. Commends both the former and current Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territories of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for their efforts, and notes that the presence of the Rapporteur can be a positive factor towards reducing the instances of all human rights violations in the region;

2. Expresses its outrage at the instances of massive and systematic violations of human rights and humanitarian law as described in the reports of the Special Rapporteur, including ethnic cleansing, killings, disappearances, torture, rape, detentions, beatings, arbitrary searches, destruction of houses, illegal evictions and other acts of violence aimed at forcing individuals from their homes;

3. Condemns in the strongest terms all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the parties to the conflict, recognizing that the leadership in territories under the control of Serbs in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and formerly Serb-held areas of the Republic of Croatia, the commanders of Serb paramilitary forces and political and military leaders in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) bear primary responsibility for most of those violations, and that persons who commit such acts will be held personally responsible and accountable;

4. Condemns the attacks on the safe areas of Srebrenica and Zepa by Bosnian Serb forces, which led to gross abuses of human rights and grave breaches of international humanitarian law and the disappearance of thousands of persons, as detailed in the reports of the new and the former Special Rapporteurs;

5. Condemns also the indiscriminate shelling of civilians in the safe areas of Sarajevo, Tuzla, Bihac and Gorazde and the use of cluster bombs on civilian targets by Bosnian Serb and Croatian Serb forces;

6. Condemns further violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including killings, the burning and looting of houses, the shelling of residential areas, harassment of and attacks on refugees, the elderly and the infirm perpetrated by members of the Croatian Armed Forces and civilians in the formerly Serb-controlled regions of Croatia during and subsequent to the military operations there in August 1995;

7. Welcomes the withdrawal of the heavy weapons surrounding Sarajevo following the decision to implement Security Council resolution 836 (1993), reinforced by the London Conference, to respond to attacks on safe areas, and notes that this opened Sarajevo to badly needed humanitarian relief;

8. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the International Tribunal established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 806 (1993) and 827 (1993) for the Prosecution of Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, notes the

issuance of indictments against individuals, and urges that the Tribunal be given the resources it needs;

9. Requests States, as a matter of urgency, to continue to make available to the International Tribunal expert personnel, adequate resources and services to aid in the investigation and prosecution of persons accused of having committed serious violations of international humanitarian law;

10. Reminds all States of their obligation under Security Council resolution 827 (1993) to cooperate with the Tribunal, including through compliance with requests for assistance and orders issued by a trial chamber of the Tribunal, and, in this regard urges the parties to allow the establishment of offices of the Tribunal in their territories and draws the attention of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to their obligation to cooperate with the Tribunal, in particular to arrest, detain and facilitate the transfer to the custody of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia any and all indicted war criminals who reside in or transit through or are otherwise present in their respective territories;

11. Demands that all parties refrain from any action intended to destroy, alter, conceal or damage any evidence of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and that they preserve such evidence;

12. Expresses its complete support for the victims of human rights violations, recognizes the right of refugees and displaced persons freely to return to their homes of origin in safety and dignity, to have restored to them property of which they were deprived in the course of hostilities since 1991 and to be compensated for any such property that cannot be restored to them, considers null any commitments made under duress, and urges all parties to fulfil their agreements to this end;

13. Condemns all deliberate obstruction of the delivery of food, medical and other supplies essential for the civilian population, which constitutes a serious violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and of medical evacuations, and demands that all parties ensure that all persons under their control cease such acts;

14. Also condemns all attacks on the United Nations Peace Forces and on personnel working with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian organizations by parties to the conflict;

15. Expresses its outrage that the systematic practice of rape has been used as a weapon of war against women and children and as an instrument of ethnic cleansing, and recognizes that rape in this context constitutes a war crime;

16. Condemns police violence against the non-Serb populations in Kosovo, the Sandjak, Vojvodina and other areas of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), particularly the systematic acts of harassment, beatings, torture, warrantless searches, arbitrary detention and unfair trials, including those directed mainly against members of the Muslim population;

17. Strongly urges the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to take appropriate measures to respect fully all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to take urgent action to ensure the rule of law in order to prevent arbitrary evictions and dismissals and discrimination against any ethnic or national, religious, and linguistic group, including in the fields of education and information;

18. Cautions against any attempts designed to use Serb refugees to alter the population balance in Kosovo, Sandjak, Vojvodina and any other part of the country, thus further suppressing the enjoyment of human rights in those areas;

19. Strongly encourages all parties to fulfil the commitments made in Dayton to release without delay all civilians and combatants held in prison or detention in relation to the conflict, including to account for the fate of the two missing French pilots and to ensure their immediate return, in conformity with international humanitarian law and the provisions of the Dayton Agreement, and demands that the parties cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Special Rapporteur and her staff, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the monitoring and other missions of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

20. Urges Member States to consider positively the Special Rapporteur's recommendation that economic and other aid must be made conditional on meaningful progress on human rights;

21. Recognizes that the Bosnian Federation should be further developed to serve as a model for ethnic reconciliation in the region;

22. Urges all parties, and in particular the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), to cooperate with the "Special Process" on missing persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia established pursuant to paragraph 24 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/72, 14/ and reiterated in resolution 1995/35, by disclosing information and documentation on inmates in prisons, camps and other places of detention;

23. Urges all parties to provide full access for monitoring the human rights situation, including by allowing access to the missions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including in Kosovo, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/196 of 23 December 1994 and by the Security Council in its resolution 855 (1993), and in the Sandjak, Vojvodina and other affected areas, and requests that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) permit the opening of a field office of the Centre for Human Rights as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/196;

24. Urges the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to ensure the full and effective coordination of the activities of all United Nations bodies

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14/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 and corrigendum (E/1994/24 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

in implementing the present resolution, and urges those bodies concerned with the situation in the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to coordinate closely with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur and the International Tribunal, and to provide to the Special Rapporteur on a continuing basis all relevant and accurate information in their possession on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro);

25. Draws attention to the need for an immediate and urgent investigation by qualified experts of several mass grave sites near Srebrenica and Vukovar and other mass grave sites and places where mass killings are reported to have taken place, and requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to make available the necessary means for this undertaking;

26. Urges the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to make all necessary resources available for the Special Rapporteur to carry out her mandate and in particular to provide her with adequate staff based in the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to ensure effective continuous monitoring of the human rights situation there and coordination with other United Nations bodies involved, including the United Nations Peace Forces;

27. Welcomes the effort by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to uphold human rights in its territory, and urges it to fulfil the human rights commitments it has made;

28. Notes with concern that many of the past recommendations of the Special Rapporteur have not been fully implemented, in some cases because of resistance by the parties on the ground, and urges the parties, all States and relevant organizations to give immediate consideration to them, in particular the calls of the past and present Special Rapporteur:

(a) For the de facto Bosnian Serb authorities to provide prompt access to humanitarian monitors to territories controlled by them, in particular to the Banja Luka region and to Srebrenica, emphasizing that the fate of thousands of missing persons from Srebrenica requires immediate clarification;

(b) For the Government of Croatia to fulfil its responsibilities to secure the human rights of the remaining ethnic Serb population in all recently retaken territories and to remove all legal and administrative hurdles which are preventing the return of refugees and displaced persons;

(c) For greater cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations, recognizing that the work and role of non-governmental organizations is vital to the promotion and protection of the rights of the individual and respect and protection of human rights in the region;

(d) For the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to undertake measures to respect fully the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

29. Invites the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session to request the Special Rapporteur to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

30. Decides to continue its examination of this question at its fifty-first session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

UNITED
NATIONS

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 112 (a)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden: draft resolution

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/178 of 23 December 1994, as well as other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 1/

Welcoming the call in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action both for intensified efforts to integrate the equal status and the human rights of all women and girls into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout relevant

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1/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

bodies and mechanisms, and for the related actions to be taken by, inter alia, the human rights treaty monitoring bodies, 2/

Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of United Nations human rights instruments is indispensable to the efforts of the Organization, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 3/ to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that the effective functioning of the treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,

Conscious of the importance of coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives taken by a number of treaty bodies to elaborate early warning measures and urgent procedures with a view to preventing the occurrence, or reoccurrence, of serious human rights violations,

Recalling the reports of the five meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held from 1988 to 1994,

Expressing concern that the massive underresourcing of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat seriously impedes the human rights treaty bodies in their ability to carry out their mandates effectively,

Also expressing concern about the non-fulfilment by many States parties of their financial obligations under the relevant United Nations instruments on human rights,

Reaffirming its responsibility to ensure the effective functioning of human rights treaty bodies established pursuant to instruments adopted by the General Assembly and, in this connection, further reaffirming the importance of:

(a) Ensuring the effective functioning of systems of periodic reporting by States parties to these instruments;

(b) Securing sufficient financial, human and other resources to overcome existing difficulties with their effective functioning;

(c) Promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness through better coordination of the activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights;

2/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, paras. 221 and 231.

3/ Resolution 217 A (III).

(d) Addressing questions of both reporting obligations and financial implications whenever elaborating any further instruments on human rights;

1. Welcomes the report of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their sixth meeting, held at Geneva from 18 to 22 September 1995, 4/ and endorses their conclusions and recommendations;

2. Emphasizes the need to ensure financing and adequate staff and other resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies and, with this in mind:

(a) Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General provide adequate financial resources in respect of each treaty body;

(b) Calls upon the Secretary-General to make the most efficient use of existing staff and other resources and to take all appropriate measures to provide additional resources to give the treaty bodies adequate administrative support, access to technical expertise and access to appropriate databases and on-line information services;

(c) Requests that the Secretary-General report on this question to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

3. Welcomes the Plan of Action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and encourages States to contribute to its realization;

4. Urges States parties to notify the Secretary-General, as depository of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 5/ and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 6/ of their acceptance of the amendments approved by the States parties and the General Assembly in its resolution 48/120;

5. Calls upon all States parties to fulfil without delay and in full their financial obligations, including their arrears, under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment until the amendments enter into force;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that the two committees established under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against

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4/ A/50/505, annex.

5/ Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

6/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment meet as scheduled until the amendments enter into force;

7. Welcomes the continuing efforts by the treaty bodies and the Secretary-General aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures, and urges the treaty bodies and the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to continue to examine ways of reducing the duplication of reporting required under the different instruments, without impairing the quality of reporting, and of generally reducing the reporting burden on Member States, including through:

(a) Identifying where cross-referencing can be used in report writing;

(b) Recommending, where appropriate, the designation of specific national administrative units to coordinate reports to all treaty bodies;

(c) Establishing coordination between the treaty bodies and the International Labour Organization to identify overlap between their respective instruments and conventions;

(d) Considering the utility of single comprehensive reports and of replacing periodic reports with specifically tailored reports and thematic reports;

8. Urges States parties to contribute, individually and through meetings of States parties, to identifying and implementing ways of further streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures;

9. Looks forward to the finalization of the interim report of the independent expert on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of the human rights treaty system 7/ in time for the final report to be considered by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session;

10. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure from within existing resources, that the revision of the United Nations Manual on Human Rights Reporting is completed as soon as possible, that the revised Manual is available in all official languages at the earliest opportunity, and that due regard is paid to the recommendations concerning the Manual made by the fifth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies;

11. Expresses concern about the increasing backlog of reports on implementation by States parties to United Nations instruments on human rights and about delays in consideration of reports by the treaty bodies, and again urges States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations;

12. Invites States parties which have been unable to comply with the requirements to submit their initial report to avail themselves of technical assistance;

7/ A/CONF.157/PC/62/Add.11/Rev.1.

13. Welcomes the efforts of the human rights treaty bodies to monitor the implementation of human rights treaty undertakings by States parties that consistently do not comply with their reporting obligations;

14. Urges States parties to address, as a matter of priority, at their next scheduled meetings, the issue of States parties consistently not complying with their reporting obligations;

15. Urges all States parties whose reports have been examined by treaty bodies to provide adequate follow-up to the observations and final comments of the treaty bodies on their reports;

16. Welcomes the emphasis placed by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and by the Commission on Human Rights on the importance of technical assistance and advisory services and, to this end:

(a) Welcomes the plans of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report regularly to the Commission on possible technical assistance projects identified by the treaty bodies;

(b) Encourages the treaty bodies to continue to identify possibilities for technical assistance in the regular course of their work of reviewing the periodic reports of States parties;

17. Encourages the human rights treaty bodies to urge each State party to translate, publish and make widely available in its territory the full text of the concluding observations on its reports to the treaty-monitoring bodies, and requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make every effort to ensure that recent reports and the summary records of committee discussions pertaining to them, as well as concluding observations and final comments of the treaty bodies, are made available in the United Nations information centres in the countries submitting those reports;

18. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to explore means to publish at the end of each year, from within existing resources, as a separate volume, a compilation of all concluding observations adopted during that year by treaty bodies;

19. Welcomes the contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies made by the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, and invites the specialized agencies, other United Nations bodies and the treaty bodies to continue to pursue further cooperation between them, bearing in mind the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

20. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult the human rights treaty bodies in his efforts to promote cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights;

21. Recognizes the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the effective implementation of all human rights instruments and encourages

the Secretary-General to facilitate the exchange of information between the human rights treaty bodies and such organizations;

22. Endorses the recommendation of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that each treaty body, in its examination of States reports, assiduously investigate compliance by States parties with the extensive obligations regarding human rights education and the provision of public information on human rights;

23. Welcomes the emphasis by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that the enjoyment of the human rights of women should be closely monitored by each treaty body within the competence of its mandate, and approves their endorsement of recommendations proposed by the expert group on the integration of gender perspectives into United Nations human rights activities and programmes that met at Geneva from 3 to 7 July 1995; 8/

24. Encourages the human rights treaty bodies to continue to develop mechanisms for the prevention of violations of human rights;

25. Welcomes all appropriate measures the human rights treaty bodies may take, within their mandates, in response to situations of massive human rights violations, including bringing those violations to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General and the competent bodies of the United Nations in the field of human rights, and requests the High Commissioner, acting within his mandate, to coordinate and consult throughout the United Nations system in this regard;

26. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on measures taken to implement the present resolution and on obstacles to its implementation;

27. Decides to continue giving priority consideration, at its fifty-first session, to the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

8/ A/50/505, para. 34.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

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Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/178 of 23 December 1994, as well as other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 1/

Welcoming the call in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action both for intensified efforts to integrate the equal status and the human rights of all women and girls into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout relevant

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bodies and mechanisms, and for the related actions to be taken by, inter alia, the human rights treaty monitoring bodies, 2/

Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of United Nations human rights instruments is of major importance to the efforts of the Organization, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 3/ to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that the effective functioning of the treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,

Conscious of the importance of coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives taken by a number of treaty bodies to elaborate early-warning measures and urgent procedures, within their mandate, with a view to preventing the occurrence, or reoccurrence, of serious human rights violations,

Recalling the reports of the five meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held from 1988 to 1994,

Expressing concern about the non-fulfilment by many States parties of their financial obligations under the relevant United Nations instruments on human rights,

Also expressing concern that the underresourcing of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat is one impediment to the human rights treaty bodies in their ability to carry out their mandates effectively,

Reaffirming its responsibility to ensure the effective functioning of human rights treaty bodies established pursuant to instruments adopted by the General Assembly and, in this connection, further reaffirming the importance of:

(a) Ensuring the effective functioning of the periodic reporting by States parties to these instruments;

(b) Securing sufficient financial, human and information resources to overcome existing difficulties with their effective functioning;

(c) Promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness through better coordination of the activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field

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2/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, paras. 221 and 231.

3/ Resolution 217 A (III).

of human rights, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of their mandates and tasks;

(d) Addressing questions of both reporting obligations and financial implications whenever elaborating any further instruments on human rights,

1. Welcomes the report of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their sixth meeting, held at Geneva from 18 to 22 September 1995, 4/ and takes note of their conclusions and recommendations;

2. Emphasizes the need to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies and, with this in mind:

(a) Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General provide adequate resources in respect of each treaty body;

(b) Calls upon the Secretary-General to make the most efficient use of existing resources and to seek the resources necessary to give the treaty bodies adequate administrative support, access to technical expertise and access to appropriate databases and on-line information services;

(c) Requests that the Secretary-General report on this question to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

3. Welcomes efforts to identify measures for more effective implementation of the United Nations human rights instruments, and, in this regard, takes note with interest of the Plan of Action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

4. Urges States parties to notify the Secretary-General, as depository of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 5/ and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 6/ of their acceptance of the amendments approved by the States parties and the General Assembly in its resolution 48/120;

5. Calls upon all States parties to fulfil without delay and in full their financial obligations, including their arrears, under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment until the amendments enter into force;

4/ A/50/505, annex.

5/ Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

6/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that the two committees established under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment meet as scheduled until the amendments enter into force;

7. Welcomes the continuing efforts by the treaty bodies and the Secretary-General aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures, and urges the treaty bodies and the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to continue to examine ways of reducing the duplication of reporting required under the different instruments, without impairing the quality of reporting, and of generally reducing the reporting burden on Member States, including through:

(a) Identifying where cross-referencing can be used in report writing;

(b) Recommending, where appropriate, the designation of specific national administrative units to coordinate reports to all treaty bodies;

(c) Establishing coordination between the treaty bodies and the International Labour Organization to identify overlap between their respective instruments and conventions;

(d) Considering the utility of single comprehensive reports and of replacing periodic reports with specifically tailored reports and thematic reports;

8. Urges States parties to contribute, individually and through meetings of States parties, to identifying and implementing ways of further streamlining, rationalizing, avoiding duplication in and otherwise improving reporting procedures;

9. Encourages the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with his mandate, to request the independent expert to finalize his interim report on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of the human rights treaty system 7/ in time for the final report to be considered by the Commission on Human Rights, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 48/120 of 20 December 1993, at its fifty-second session;

10. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure, from within existing resources, that the revision of the United Nations Manual on Human Rights Reporting is completed as soon as possible, that the revised Manual is available in all official languages at the earliest opportunity and that due regard is paid to the recommendations concerning the Manual made by the fifth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies;

11. Expresses concern about the increasing backlog of reports on implementation by States parties to United Nations instruments on human rights

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7/ A/CONF.157/PC/62/Add.11/Rev.1.

and about delays in consideration of reports by the treaty bodies, and again urges States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations;

12. Invites States parties that have been unable to comply with the requirements to submit their initial report to avail themselves of technical assistance;

13. Encourages the efforts of the human rights treaty bodies to examine the progress made in achieving the fulfilment of human rights treaty undertakings by all States parties, without exception;

14. Urges States parties to address, as a matter of priority, at their next scheduled meetings, the issue of States parties consistently not complying with their reporting obligations;

15. Urges all States parties whose reports have been examined by treaty bodies to provide adequate follow-up to the observations and final comments of the treaty bodies on their reports;

16. Welcomes the emphasis placed by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and by the Commission on Human Rights on the importance of technical assistance and advisory services, and, to this end:

(a) Welcomes the plans of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report regularly to the Commission on possible technical assistance projects identified by the treaty bodies;

(b) Encourages the treaty bodies to continue to identify possibilities for technical assistance in the regular course of their work of reviewing the periodic reports of States parties;

17. Also welcomes the recommendation by the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that urges each State party to translate, publish and make widely available in its territory the full text of the concluding observations on its reports to the treaty-monitoring bodies, and requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make every effort to ensure that recent reports and the summary records of committee discussions pertaining to them, as well as concluding observations and final comments of the treaty bodies, are made available in the United Nations information centres in the countries submitting those reports;

18. Welcomes the contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies made by the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, and invites the specialized agencies, other United Nations bodies and the treaty bodies to continue to pursue further cooperation between them, bearing in mind the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the desirability of avoiding unnecessary duplication;

19. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult the human rights treaty bodies in his efforts to promote cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations where appropriate for the promotion and protection of human rights;

20. Recognizes the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the effective implementation of all human rights instruments and encourages the exchange of information between the human rights treaty bodies and such organizations;

21. Endorses the recommendation of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that each treaty body, in its examination of States reports, place emphasis on the implementation by States parties of their obligations regarding human rights education and the provision of public information on human rights;

22. Welcomes the emphasis by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that the enjoyment of the human rights of women should be closely monitored by each treaty body within the competence of its mandate, noting the recommendations proposed by the expert group on the integration of gender perspectives into United Nations human rights activities and programmes that met at Geneva from 3 to 7 July 1995; 8/

23. Also welcomes all appropriate measures the human rights treaty bodies may take, within their mandates, in response to situations of massive human rights violations, including bringing those violations to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General and the competent bodies of the United Nations in the field of human rights, and requests the High Commissioner, acting within his mandate, to coordinate and consult throughout the United Nations system in this regard;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on measures taken to implement the present resolution and on obstacles to its implementation;

25. Decides to continue giving priority consideration, at its fifty-first session, to the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

8/ A/50/505, para. 34.